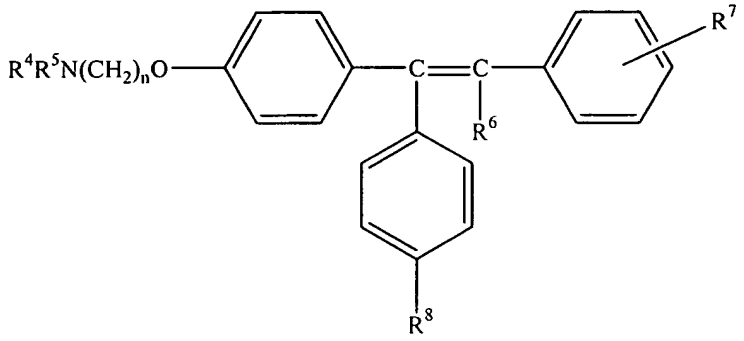
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A method to reduce the sensitivity of endothelially-compromised vascular smooth muscle in a patient in need of such reduction, comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a CLC3 blocker, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 1, wherein the CLC3 blocker is a compound of Formula I



I

wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

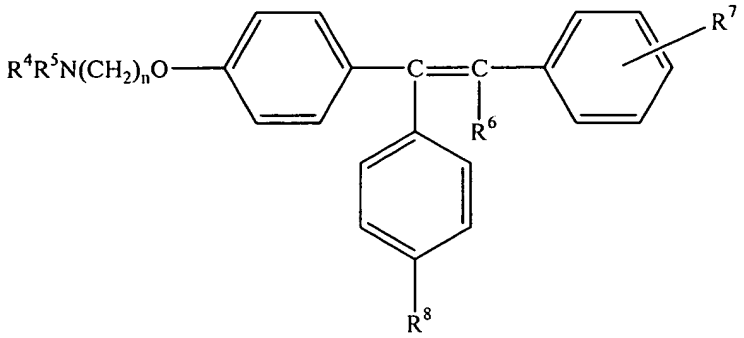
n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 2, wherein the compound administered is 1-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-l, 2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Withdrawn) A method to ameliorate the negative effects associated with vascular smooth muscle endothelium damage in a patient is need of such treatment, comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a CLC3 blocker, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 4, wherein the CLC3 blocker is a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein the wherein the compound administered is 1-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein said endothelium damage is the result of diabetes.

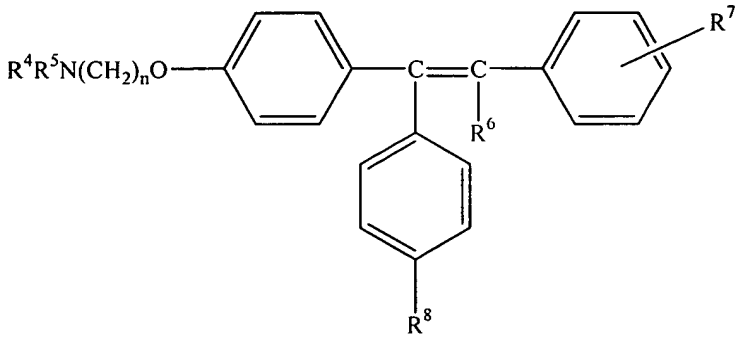
8. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein said endothelium damage is the result of a surgical procedure.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein said endothelium damage is the result or cause of hypertension.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, wherein said endothelium damage is the result or cause of coronary artery disease.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 5, which further comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective compound selected from the group consisting of: an anti-diabetes agent; anti-hypertension agent; an anti-coronary artery disease agent; and an anti-restenosis agent.

12. (Withdrawn) A method to affect CLC3 receptors comprising administering a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

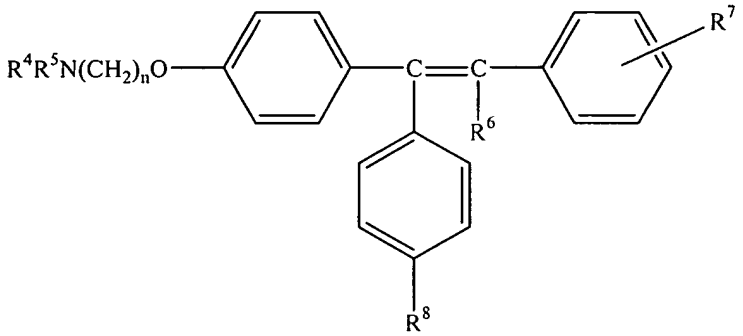
R^8 is H or OH; and

n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 12, wherein the compound administered is 1-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-l, 2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) A method to reduce contraction of endothelially-compromised vascular smooth muscle in response to agonist, comprising administering a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

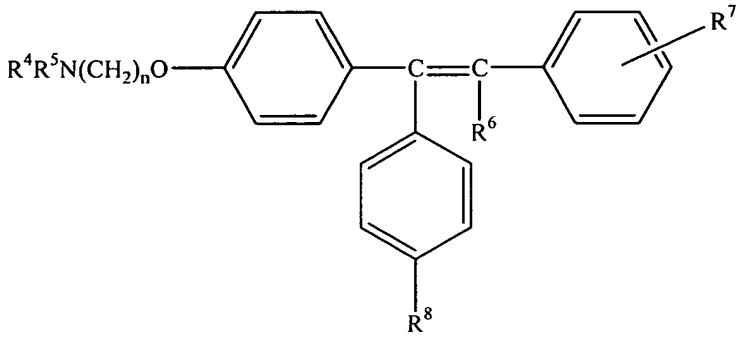
n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 14, wherein the compound administered is l-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) A method to decrease the effects of vasoconstrictors in pathologic tissues and not in non-pathologic tissues in a patient with pathologic tissues, and who is in need of such decrease, comprising administering a pharmaceutically-effective amount of a CLC3 blocker, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 16, wherein the CLC3 blocker is a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

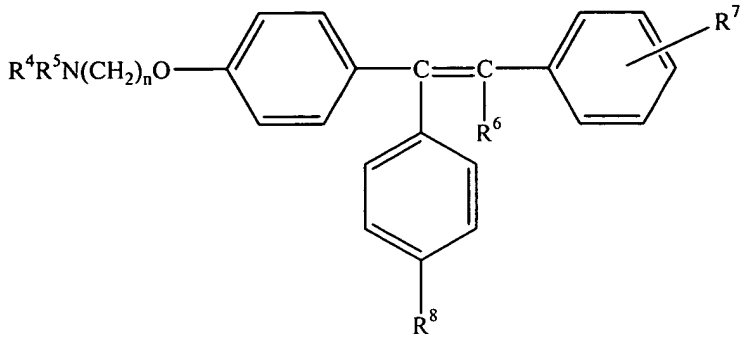
n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 17, wherein the compound administered is l-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Withdrawn) A method to stabilize blood pressure in patients with endothelium compromised vascular smooth muscle, and who are in need of such stabilization, comprising administering a pharmaceutically-effective amount of a CLC3 blocker, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 19, wherein the CLC3 blocker is a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

n is 2;

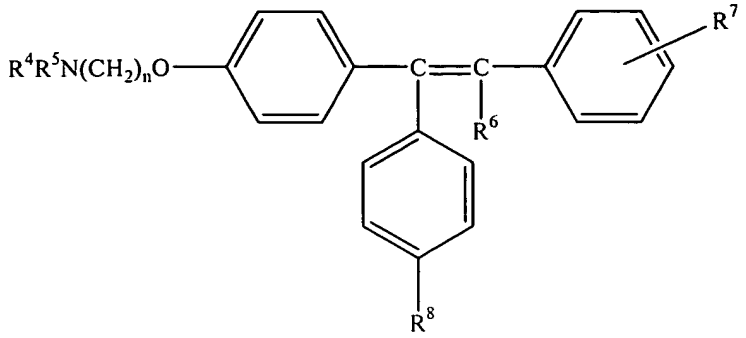
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 20, wherein the compound administered is l-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene (tamoxifen), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) A method to modulate vascular tone in a patient having compromised vascular tissue, comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chloride

channel blocking agent, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compromised vascular tissue is associated with erectile dysfunction.

23. (Original) A method of claim 22, wherein the chloride channel blocking agent is a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

R^6 is H or a lower alkyl radical;

R^7 is H, halo, OH, a lower alkyl radical, or is a buta-1,3-dienyl radical which together with the adjacent benzene ring forms a naphthyl radical;

R^8 is H or OH; and

n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 23, wherein the ~~wherein the~~ compound is 1-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-1,2-diphenylbut-1-ene ~~(tamoxifen)~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 22, wherein the agent is selected from niflumic acid, mefanamic acid, flufenamic acid, 4,4′-diisothiocyanostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (DIDS), 4,4′-dinitrostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (DNDS), 4-acetamido-4′isiothiocyanostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (SITS), anthracene-9-carboxylic acid (9-AC), 5-Nitro-2-(3-

phenylpropylamino)benzoic acid (NPPB), diphenylamine-2-carboxylate (DPC), indanyloxyacetic acid-94 (IAA-94) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the agent is DIDS or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Original) A method of claim 22, wherein the chloride channel is a CLC3 channel.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein blocking the CLC3 channel results in diminished vasoconstriction to norepinephrine.

29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the agent modulates vascular tone by enhancing vasodilation.

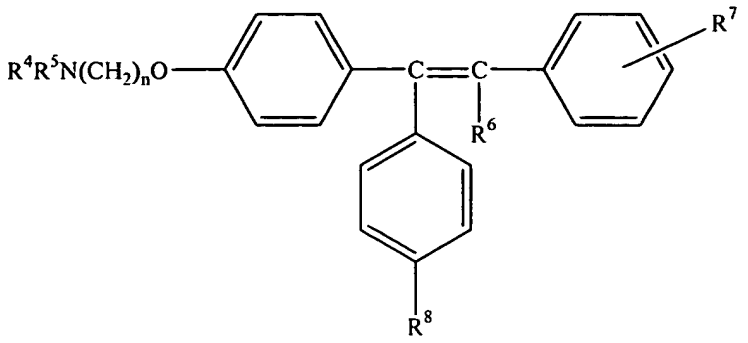
30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 22, further comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective compound selected from an anti-diabetes agent,[[;]] an anti-hypertension agent, an anti-coronary artery disease agent, an anti-restenosis agent, and a vasodilatory agent.

32. (Original) A method of claim 22, wherein the agent is administered intravenously or orally.

33. (Currently Amended) A method to modulate penile vascular tone in a mammal <u>in need thereof, said method</u> comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chloride channel blocking agent, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. (Original) A method of claim 33, wherein the chloride channel blocking agent is a compound of Formula I



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wherein either R^4 is H or a lower alkyl radical and R^5 is a lower alkyl radical, or R^4 and R^5 are joined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a heterocyclic radical;

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R^8 is H or OH; and

n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 34, wherein the compound administered is 1-p-β-dimethylaminoethoxyphenyl-trans-l, 2-diphenylbut-1-ene ~~(tamoxifen)~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 33, wherein the agent is selected from niflumic acid, mefanamic acid, flufenamic acid, 4,4′-diisothiocyanostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (DIDS), 4,4′-dinitrostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (DNDS), 4-acetamido-4′isiothiocyanostilbene-2,2′-disulphonic acid (SITS), anthracene-9-carboxylic acid (9-AC), 5-Nitro-2-(3-phenylpropylamino)benzoic acid (NPPB), diphenylamine-2-carboxylate (DPC), indanyloxyacetic acid-94 (IAA-94) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the agent is DIDS or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the agent is administered orally or intravenously.

39. (Original) A method of claim 33, wherein the chloride channel is a CLC3 channel.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein blocking the CLC3 channel results in diminished vasoconstriction to norepinephrine.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein blocking the CLC3 channel reduces penile sympathetic tone.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the reduction of penile sympathetic tone induces an erection.

43. (Withdrawn) A method for treating erectile dysfunction comprising administering a composition comprising a CLC3 channel blocking agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.